

Nut Trees for Michigan

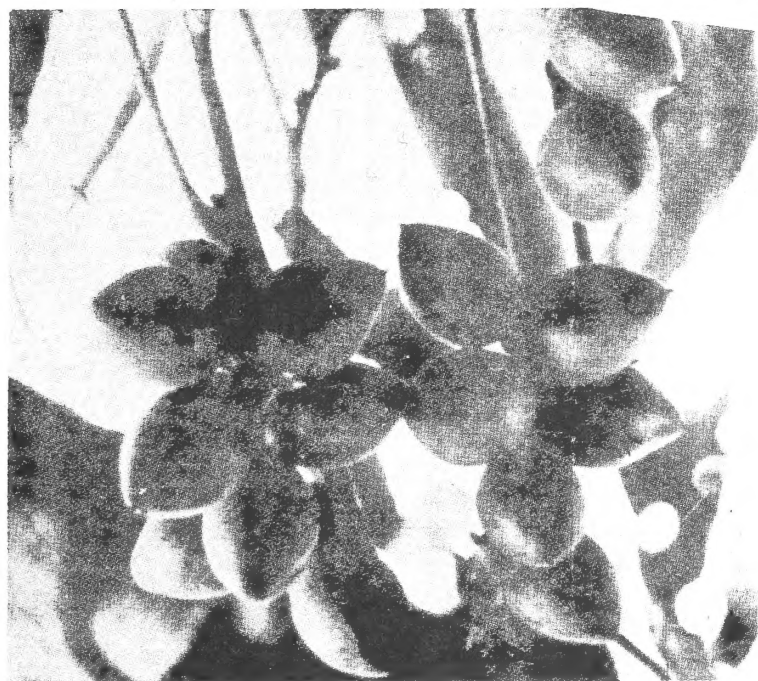


Corsan transplanting a three-year-old Circassian walnut tree grown on his Islington, Ont., farm from Russian seed.



George H. Corsan points with his pruning shears to where a Circassian English walnut tree has been grafted to a black walnut tree. Corsan calls shade trees "weed trees" because "all they produce are leaves and a poor quality of wood. Nut trees," he adds, "are beautiful, give shade, furnish an easily marketable crop and produce valuable wood when through bearing."

Giant Circassian and hickory nuts grown on Corsan's farm.



Japanese heartnuts, much like our butternuts. The tree grows very fast.



A burr full of Chinese sweet chestnuts.

By Russell Gore

HOPe for some of Michigan's "Ten million idle acres" of former pine-lands is held out by the experimental planting in the southern part of this state of exotic nut trees usually associated with warmer climes.

Special attention is being paid to the paper-shelled English walnut that forms so large a part of California's nut crop. Pecans, pawpaws, Japanese heartnuts and even persimmons are among the many varieties being planted both on farms and estates and at the University of Michigan arboretum.

Preliminary experimental work, covering a period of 20 years, has been done by George Hebden Corsan, former Michigan resident, in his nut plantation at Islington, near Toronto, Ont. Here, in a climate similar to that of Michigan below Saginaw on the east and Muskegon on the west, he has produced more than 300 varieties of nuts.

Prominent among Corsan's exotics is the paper-shelled English walnut, the Circassian. This tree heretofore has taken many years to mature. But Corsan has evolved a variety that grows from seed to bearing stage in from six to seven years, and matures even more rapidly when grafted on the native black walnut of Michigan woods. It is the only one of the 110 named varieties that can be adapted to northern climes.

Another exotic is known as the "Hican," a southern pecan grafted on the native hickory. Its nuts are sweeter because ripened by frost. An Asiatic being introduced here is the blight-resistant Chinese chestnut.

Corsan, swimming instructor for all California Army, Navy and Aviation camps during the World War, and later for the national Y. M. C. A., studied trees and birds as a hobby. A lecture he delivered before a Battle Creek audience inspired W. K. Kellogg to create the Bird Sanctuary now operated under his name by the State of Michigan. Corsan planted, stocked and for five years managed the sanctuary. In June, 1931, he established a bird sanctuary on the San Gabriel River in California.



The famous Asiatic tree hazel, a very hardy tree that will grow from 120 to 200 feet high. The nuts are larger than native hazel nuts. "Michigan once had many nut trees," says Corsan. "They were cut down to make ax handles and whiffle-trees. But they can, and should, be reintroduced."

This tree is nine years old.

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NUT TREE CATALOGUE

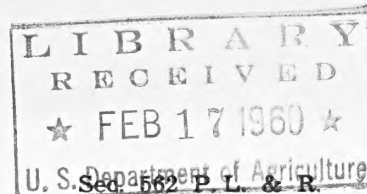
SPRING 1960

41st Year

H. H. Corsan

R. R. 1

Hillsdale, Mich.



CARPATHIAN WALNUT, KING OF NUT TREES—a paper shell Persian or English Walnut (*Juglans Regia*). This tree grows in many parts of the world; the hardiest is found in Russia, Poland and Northern Carpathian mountains where winter temperatures at times drop to more than 40 degrees below zero. It was from these countries that the original stock was brought to Canada some 20 years ago and since propagated in our nursery here in Michigan. The trees have a battleship gray colored skin, leaves large, glossy and nicely scented. Nuts vary in size from that of the California English walnut to twice this size. Nuts fall free of hull. In Canada this variety has been a heavy producer and thousands are now growing in many of the northern states. Becomes a large tree. Growth rapid. Early bearing. Strong vigorous.

Full fibrous rooted trees 1½-2 ft. \$2.25, 2 for \$4.20, 3 for \$6.35; 2-3 ft. \$3.10, 2 for \$5.90, 3 for \$8.90.

CHINESE SWEET CHESTNUT (*Castanea Mollissima*) blight resistant from the Tientsin district northern China. For two weeks of early summer this tree is a riot of yellow blossoms. Grows fast. Nut is larger and just as sweet as our native sweet chestnut which the blight has killed throughout the country. The blossom, foliage and fruit of this tree make it worthy of a place on any property. Hold their golden brown dried leaves during winter. Tree grows 20 to 35 feet. Not selfpollinating, therefore more than one must be planted to produce nuts, preferably three or more. The late Mr. C. A. Reed, Asst. Pomologist U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md., stated that the parent chestnut trees of our nursery stock were of pure strain, heavy consistent bearers of large, highest quality sweet nuts.

These trees are of bearing age. 4-5 ft. \$3.25, 3 for \$9.30

GIANT HICKORY (*Carya Lacinosa*). A pure shellbark. This tree produces largest hickory in the world, three times larger than the average. Growth rapid, leaves a nice glossy green and very large. During spring buds open in the form of a flower of the orchid type, displaying delicate pastel shades, large caliper. Sturdy trees.

8-10 ft. \$4.95, 2 for \$8.35

BUTTERNUT (*Juglans Cinerea*). The well known butternut of boyhood days, it has almost passed from the landscape, help perpetuate this tree. Grows and looks similar to black walnut, leaves larger, nut large and conical shaped. Texture of shell about same as black walnut. Many prefer the rich nutritious flavor to all other nut meats. Stock we now offer is fast growing, early bearing

4-5 ft. \$2.95; 6-7 ft. \$5.50

JAPANESE HEARTNUT (*Juglans Cordiformis*). A hybrid. This tree grows thriftily and bears precociously and heavily. In rich soil the leaves are sometimes a yard in length, giving it an oriental or tropical appearance. Nut and kernel is heart shaped. The shell is easily opened in two halves. Meat is one solid piece, can be removed with fingers. Flavor is that of the butternut. Nuts grow in clusters of five or more. Tree reaches a height of 30 to 40 feet, makes a beautiful lawn and shade tree. The stock we ship is sturdy, hand dug with practically all roots. We recommend two or more for pollination.

6-7 ft. \$4.95, 2 for \$9.20

NORTHERN PECAN. This tree like the hickory seems to grow and live forever. Makes a clean specimen tree for the lawn affording an abundance of shade. Leaves long of a light glossy pastel green. Produces a delicious medium sized thin shelled nut. The trees we offer are sturdy and of large caliper.

4-5 ft. \$3.25; 10-12 ft. \$5.95, 2 for \$10.90

ALMOND (Hall's) You will like this beautiful flowering tree. The pink five-petalled blossom is like a peach blossom. Hall's northern grown almond is hardy, rapid growing and young bearing, producing high quality nuts that can be grown anywhere peaches grow. Leaves are large, serrated and dark green, tree reaches a heights of 25 ft. and with a little care should bear for forty to fifty years. This tree is self-pollinating but we advise planting two or more.

3-4 ft. \$2.60, 2 for \$4.90, 3 for \$7.20

Terms—Cash or 50% with order, balance C.O.D. Shipments F. O. B. Hillsdale, Mich. Spring orders accepted until April 5th. Due to illness Mr. Corsan is not issuing his usual full size catalog this season.

